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MAIN BUSINESS AND EDITORIAL OFFICES,
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The New British Ambassador.
The new British Ambassador presented
the formal credentials of his
office at the White House yesterday,
but his more important qualifications
had already been passed upon by the
American public. The speech of Sir
Auckland Geddes, made to the Pilgrims
on Tuesday night, gave to the
United States a very distinct and
happy picture of the new envoy.

It is unusual for a diplomat upon his
first public appearance to reveal
himself so completely. The habit has
been for the newcomer to make a
cautious approach, offering first the
purest social graces, which are the
necessary cloak of diplomacy, and let-
ting the sterner or more delicate in-
ternational matters wait for another
day. That Sir Auckland was willing
and able to combine at once the
ampleness and a candid discussion of
business matters which concern both
nations was a proof of his capability
and his tact.

Nothing could have been more
graceful than the opening of the Am-
bassador's address, nothing better cal-
culated to apprise Americans of the
human and humorous angles of the
Auckland mind. His own picture of
himself, a Scot who had spent most
of his life in any part of the British
Empire except England, was an apt
prelude to his declaration that he sees
England objectively "as only those
who do not share her blood or her
long traditions can see her." Having
thus established himself as the Am-
bassador of the Empire rather than
of the island, Sir Auckland found
himself in position to say the things
of England which modesty might
forbid an Englishman to say. Here we
have the real diplomat.

Never has an Ambassador begun
his stay in the United States under
more pleasing circumstances than Sir
Auckland created for himself. He
has shown us with delightful quick-
ness the true inwardness of his mind.
There was absent from his words
that flattery which America is in the
habit of expecting from new envoys,
but in his self-introductory remarks
he paid the people of this country the
greater compliment of assuming in
an intelligence that made his
"bluntness" possible.

Theatrical Long Runs.
In the prevailing theatrical pros-
perity there are no grounds for sur-
prise that a play was acted here for
somewhat less than two years and
earned during the period of its popu-
larity in this country more than three
million dollars. This is the record of
"Pep o' My Heart," according to court
testimony. So much have standards
of profit in the theatre changed this
career no longer seems sensational.

The long run of a play in New
York does not now serve to attract
special attention. Two of the dramas
at present on view, "Lightnin'" and
"East is West," are approaching the
two year limit. In the old days
"Adonis" and "Hazel Kirke" were the
record breakers, so long were they
acted in this city. Maybe they fell
behind the famous career of "Our
Boys" at the Vaudeville Theatre in
London. It took nearly four years
to exhaust the popularity of that
piece. Bus drivers came to call out
the name of the theatre as one of
their regular halting places.

Nowadays long continued rep-
resentations of popular plays are by no means
infrequent. With the increase of popu-
lation and improvement in transpor-
tation facilities the average play
which makes an appeal to the public
may be kept on view for several
months. Then New York managers
are said to count on a floating popu-
lation of more than 250,000, which is
one of the evidences of the theatre
public's recent increase in number.
In London the enduring popularity of
certain plays is as great as it is here.
"Chu Chin Chow," for instance, has
entertained large audiences for as
long as "Charley's Aunt," which put
to its credit an incredible number of
representations.

Given nowadays the drama with
the element of popular appeal, the in-
creased number of theatregoers, the
convenience for getting from one part

of New York and its suburbs to an-
other, there seems no reason why the
successful plays should not enjoy
greater longevity. Those of such spe-
cial attractiveness as "Lightnin'" and
"East is West" seem able to exert
their charm for years, while others
easily keep the public coming to see
them for months at a time. The long
run seems indeed destined to grow
longer and longer.

Charles W. Morse and the Steam-
ship McCullough.

The withdrawal of the unjust in-
dictment of the president of the
United States Steamship Company
for alleged violation of the law in
transferring by sale to French owner-
ship the steamship McCullough has
promptly followed the complete ex-
oneration of Mr. Morse by the Shipping
Board itself.

The thing could not be otherwise
with the facts in the case such as
they are. Attorney-General PALMER
could not have acted differently when
the truth of the matter was made plain
to him by the Shipping Board's re-
port and resolution, declaring in effect
that the transaction involved neither
criminality of intention nor illegality
of act on the part of the person ac-
cused of violating the law. No stain
whatever is left in any quarter, ex-
cept perhaps such as may rest upon
the too hasty assumptions of prosecu-
ting enterprise, causing cruel injury
to a man guilty of wrongdoing in
this matter.

The essential fact in the case should
be clearly understood. There was no
illegality in the sale or transfer of
the McCullough to foreign ownership
at Rouen or elsewhere, for the suffi-
cient reason that there was no such
sale or transfer. Title to the vessel
never passed. The flag was never
transferred. The sale and transfer
were merely tentative, and the con-
tract proposing the sale distinctly
made its validity subject to the ap-
proval of the United States Shipping
Board and the permission of the
United States Government as to the
transfer of the flag. This was in ac-
cordance with the Board's rule and
practice with regard to such trans-
actions. The purchase money paid on
account of the proposed sale was paid
on this specific condition, and as a
matter of fact was refunded to the
purchaser after the McCul-
lough had been commandeered by
General Pershing and actually sunk
while still in the war service of the
United States.

It is only common fairness to a
man subjected temporarily to this un-
founded accusation of lawbreaking
that public knowledge of the complete-
ness of the exoneration and the con-
sequent withdrawal of the indictment
should catch up everywhere with the
original charge.

High Interest Rates and Low Pro-
ducting Power.

Senator OWEN of Oklahoma, sponsor
of the Federal Reserve banking
act, is in a controversy with the Fed-
eral Reserve Board over the manage-
ment of interest rates. He is partly
wrong and partly right.

In discussing interest rates two
fundamental factors must never be
lost sight of. One is that high money
here will not stop borrowing. The
other is that the financial supremacy
of the British Empire rests on a
foundation of cheap money. Money
has always been cheap in London
when every other nation on earth
thought it ought to be dear.

High interest rates fortify our gold
supply. This is about all that can
be said for them. They do not set up
a barrier against the profiteer in this
or any other country. Whether he
be a manufacturer of luxuries or a
speculator in food, the profiteer, if
you let him get the money, will toe
the high interest mark to enable him
to profiteer still more.

If the so-called shortage or the
absence of capital were our own internal
affair, and all external influences
could be shut out, high interest rates
would be the natural remedy for an
overextended credit position. But
credit is not overextended in this
country. It is simply expanded in the
wrong direction. Besides, the man-
ufacture in Europe affects us. One
nation cannot starve over there with-
out bringing misfortune to all the
rest. They must dance or hang to-
gether. If Germany and France are
unable to buy here they will combine
with England. If the three still lack
buying power they will call in the
neutrals.

We cannot get away from the fact
that they will buy here no matter
how high we put the price of credit.
For us merely to keep boosting in-
terest rates is as useless as trying to
make water flow up hill. Every time
we raise interest rates they raise
their bid by advancing their bank
rates. When they increase their bid
our own consumers of capital must
follow suit.

Senator OWEN wants low interest
rates. What would be the conse-
quences? Some inflation—but how
much no one can accurately judge—
would be necessary. If it were infla-
tion of the war character it would be
harmful. The Reserve banks during
the war lowered the bars for redis-
counting and all the banks rushed in
with their bills. They obtained cheap
money and doled it out at a higher
rate. It made no difference who the
borrower. The Reserve banks were
only too anxious at the time to have
the banks rediscount.

That is all water over the dam.
New problems are here. To correct
mistakes of the past the Reserve
Board is exercising its power now,
putting money beyond the reach of

essential industries and curtailing
production.

No fault can be found with the
Board's recent decision to supervise
credit strictly. This is splendid. And
if this power of supervision were re-
lentlessly pursued Senator OWEN's
proposal for cheap money could be
adopted. Production of necessities
would be stimulated. The non-essen-
tial industry, unable to obtain credit,
would be forced to let go of labor,
cut down production and release ad-
ditional credit. The food speculator,
faced with the danger of increased
production and unable to obtain loan
renewals, would be smothered out. Es-
sential industries, knowing the price
they were paying for capital invested
in new plant was low enough to per-
mit the plant to earn its keep in
future years, would reach out and ex-
pand their output.

The gold reserve would not be un-
duly menaced, for low money would
work its own preventive if loans were
properly supervised. Such gold as we
released under those circumstances
would come back. What is being sent
out of the country to-day may never
return, for it is going to nations as
well situated and as strongly in-
trenched against future contingencies
as we ourselves.

This nation is sick of philanthropy,
but with high interest rates it is the
only kind of aid we can give Europe.
During the war the Reserve Board
made cheap money and landed it
over to Europe at low interest rates,
to be re-lent there at a profit. To-
day we have the chance to make
cheap money and by skillful supervi-
sion of credit build up our own indus-
tries and insure our own future trade.
But the only way to do this is to
keep the money away from those who
are misusing it, whatever interest
rates they bid, letting it go only to
those whose use of it means more and
more production, upon which depends
lower cost of living.

The Real Scandal in the Case of
Slacker Bergdoll.

The real scandal in the case of
Bergdoll, the slacker, now a fugitive
from a United States Army prison,
does not lie in the fact that two sol-
diers were fooled into letting him
pass out of their sight while he was
in their custody.

It does not lie in the famous gulli-
bility of the eminent criminologists
who swallowed hook, line and sinker
the slacker's tale of hidden gold and
turned him loose to roam the coun-
tryside in search of it.

The scandal of this case lies in the
fact, vouched for by no less credible
an authority than the Attorney-Gen-
eral of the United States, that pre-
vious to the release of BERGDOLL from
the prison in which he was confined
the army was actually in possession
of information that BERGDOLL was
plotting to escape, that the details of
the plan had been worked out and
that he was awaiting an opportunity
to put them into operation.

This information, the Attorney-Gen-
eral asserts publicly, was gathered by
an agent of the Military Intelligence
Division of the army and by him
communicated to the Department of
Justice, which took steps to guard
Bergdoll, effectively if through some
legal action he should be assigned
to its jurisdiction. This transfer of
responsibility did not occur.

What did happen was that BER-
doll was put by the War Department
itself in a situation in which he
could carry out exactly the scheme of
escape about which the army intelli-
gence authorities had warned the De-
partment of Justice, and being in
that situation he did escape. The
scandal of his escape is that the
War Department was so lax and so in-
efficient as to create the opportunity
for BERGDOLL to escape after it had
been warned of his purpose; and be-
side that scandal the gullibility of a
subordinate on Governors Island and
the remissness of a couple of non-
commissioned officers are incidents
not worthy of notice.

The Chair of Nonsense.

We note in the June Harper's an
impassioned plea by Professor BEN-
JAMIN JOHNSON of Vassar for the
establishment in our great colleges and
universities of what he calls a Chair
of Nonsense, the course to be open to
teachers as well as to students.

The idea is worthy of the ingenious
and humorous gentleman and loyal
friend of good English who has done
so much to eliminate priggishness
from the pursuit of the higher edu-
cation. The literature, the philosophy
and the utility of Nonsense offer an
attractive and fertile field for study.
Systematic instruction therein could
not fail to be of advantage to every-
body except the dumkumps.

The title of the professorship might
perhaps be improved. There are al-
ready in existence so many chairs that
are virtually chairs of nonsense!

\$250,000 Uncle Sam Might Save.

From Washington comes this news,
of interest to every person who rides
in or dodges motor cars:

"An appropriation of \$250,000 to
enable the Department of Agriculture
to conduct experiments looking to-
ward discovery of a new motor car
engine fuel is provided in a bill in-
troduced to-day by Representative
KNUTSON of Minnesota."

There is not an internal combustion
engine manufacturer in the world
who is not looking for such a fuel.
Half a dozen times within the last
five or six years it has been announced
that the much sought chemical com-
bination had been found. Alcohol and
kerosene are in use. Numerous mys-
terious mixtures the formulas of

which their inventors have refused
to divulge have been put forward,
advertised widely in the newspapers
and tested. If any man has a glim-
mer of an idea how the essential ex-
plosion may be produced he should
have no difficulty in getting backing
for experimentation.

Has Representative KNUTSON a con-
stitutional inventor of a pill which will
turn a gallon of water into a gallon
of potent fuel? If he has the De-
partment of Agriculture may eventu-
ally be called on to finance his in-
quiries into the properties of matter.

If Uncle SAM should undertake the
search for a new fuel, and should dis-
cover it, we might be spared one
scandal. Nobody should be stupid
enough to be taken in by the frauds
who would inevitably attempt to cap-
italize such a discovery; and if any-
body was so stupid he would not be
worth the attention of even a master
mind of the criminal world.

However, would this justify the ex-
penditure of quarter of a million dol-
lars of the taxpayers' money in a
field already thoroughly exploited?

Athletic Discipline.

Mr. PERRY HARTIGTON, head coach
of athletics at Harvard, has attrib-
uted the recent series of Crimson de-
feats in many branches of sport to a
breakdown of discipline. No man is
better qualified to speak on college
athletics than PERRY HARTIGTON, and
his novel explanation of the alarming
absence of victories is no doubt the
result of careful consideration. Many
philosophers in the past have up-
braided undergraduates for overem-
phasizing the importance of sport and
for making a god of athletics, but
since the war it would appear that
the pendulum has swung in the op-
posite direction. College students are
now accused of apportioning athletics
in a spirit of levity. Too many men
who ought to be rowing on the crew
or playing on the nine have forfeited
their chances by breaking training or
neglecting their studies. The Har-
vard Crimson has lost no time in
denouncing this lack of "physical or
scholastic discipline," which it can
explain only by the lapse in athletic
tradition owing to two years of war.

Maybe they are right, but Harvard
athletes have often been in a worse
plight than they are to-day. From
1891 to 1906 Harvard won only one
boat race. There was no war to
blame, and, as far as we remember,
the athletic discipline was beyond re-
proach. After all, war fever should
affect every college more or less, and
if the fickle goddess of victory
wanders from one campus to another
it does not necessarily prove that
athletic morale is disintegrating all
over the country.

On and after the first day of June
it will cost citizens \$10 for permis-
sion to voyage from those States to
foreign lands—\$1 for executing the ap-
plication and \$9 for the passport when
issued. But there are exceptions. The
elder statesmen constituting the com-
mittees of Congress having jurisdic-
tion over bills relating to our foreign
relations, meeting in conference, were
moved by charity, generosity, pity or
what not, and excepted from payment
of this tax those voyagers whose des-
tination is Cuba or Canada. Fortu-
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subordinate on Governors Island and
the remissness of a couple of non-
commissioned officers are incidents
not worthy of notice.

The Absorbing Question.
Knutson—What did Jones say when light-
ning struck him?
Bocker—Wondered where it got the kick.

Waste.
Samson pulled down the temple.
"Heaven, man," we cried, "don't you
know how scarce buildings are?"

Another Class.
Knutson—Does Jones belong to the new
poor or the new rich?
Bocker—He belongs to the new neither.

Not All in Gotham.
From the Fayette Democrat-Leader.
For a piece of fancy thievery, the sort
that has the city variety put to shame,
mention this—twenty-four slacks were hap-
pily worn by the arm of George Hayes and
the owner has never been able to get the
slightest clew as to identity of the thieves.

Giving the Details of a Michigan Tragedy.
From the Great Falls Tribune.
She met with a painful accident recent-
ly while playing at school, by having the leg-
ions in her nose badly torn and receiving
several black eyes.

An Osmak Ceremony.
Lead Hill Correspondence Broom Headlight.
It was no fault of ours that the Lead
Hill items did not appear last week. George
Kirkwood carried them around in his pocket
a day too late.

Wilson Rounds Armenia.
Behold a land surrounded
By auctorated deed
Armenia is bounded
Upon the north by Me.

The old consideration
Is laid upon the shelf,
Upon the south the nation
Is bounded by Myself.

More geographic matters
Are apt to defy,
The ancient custom scatters,
The eastern bound is I.

Perhaps it is not so scrappy,
Perhaps it is not fit,
But now that land unhappy
Is bounded west by It.

His Number.
Some scientific birds have tried
To wigwag things to Mars,
The trouble maker of the world,
Now, moon and all the stars,
But couldn't get a wireless from
The regions of the sky,
And had to quit the game without
Hello or yet good-bye.

But let me make an error when
They tried to get him where
He used to file defiance to
The Hun and the Bear,
Because the gory deed of war
Some little time ago
Took up his permanent abode
Right down in Mexico.

MINNA IRVING.

MANDATE PROBLEMS.

A Close Up View of the Present Tan-
gle in Armenia.

TO THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD:
The matter which follows is extracted
from a letter written in Constantinople
by an American business man who has
reliable information on the subject
commented upon.

"Next to Russia Turkey is the great-
est stumbling block to establishing
peace. In Constantinople my time has
been spent chiefly with our responsible
officials of the navy and other organi-
zations stationed here. Everywhere
there is a feeling of uncertainty and
anxiety. No one here has a respect-
able plan of adjustment. The Turks
generally and the more thoughtful
men with whom I have talked are
loyal to the Armenian mandate in the
only solution; that no other nation
will or can be trusted, least of all the
British. The mandate of course can-
not be given to a second-rate or weak
Power, and we are the only strong one
which is unbiased and disinterested."

"There have been wild estimates of
the number of troops which would be
required, but the best judgment is that
20,000 would be ample, and this num-
ber could be reduced when native sol-
diers are organized as in the Philip-
pines. The only trouble with this is
that the American people, as the feel-
ing now runs, will not accept any man-
date and will not send 20,000 troops to
this pestiferous part of the world, and
I am not sure that you or I would ap-
prove such action. If we have to sub-
mit to a compromise, why not Mexico?"

Mr. _____, an
American, is inclined to favor
some sort of international control, but
agrees that this will mean British
domination and more and more fric-
tion. Every one here either dislikes
or distrusts John Bull. The British
now see their opportunity to exploit
Mesopotamia and Asia Minor and real-
ize the importance of the tremendous
resources of those rich regions. Rich
oil and mineral deposits are known to
be there, and it is claimed that there
is wealth enough in these sections to
pay the expenses of the war.

"It is quite likely that British occu-
pation would be the best in the long
run, but it certainly would arouse re-
sentment at this time. The French
of course must have a finger in the pie
and are now in Syria controlling Bel-
rut. They at first demanded Syria as
part of their spoils of war, but I un-
derstand that they are now modifying
their demands and will be content
with preferential trade privileges."

"The Greeks, now unhappily occu-
pying Smyrna and its environs with
sorry consequences to a most fertile
and productive region, insist that they
are entitled to Constantinople and
Turkey because it is historically Greek
territory. The Italians are claiming
a consignment of the Dodecanese is-
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L. U. H. PRACE.
New York, May 26.

MOTOR CARS FOR VETERANS.

A Reminder of the Needs of the
G. A. R. on Memorial Day.

TO THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD:
In conversation with one of the veterans
of the civil war, a man, now
more than 85 years old, one who an-
swered the first call and enlisted as a
private, was several times wounded,
twice seriously, and came home when
the war was over a Captain in command
of what was left of his company. I was
surprised to learn that on Memorial Day,
next Monday, the few veterans who still
live are expected to march over a route
which will require their being on foot
for probably a couple of hours, exposed
to whatever conditions of weather then
prevail.

There are only a few members of the
Grand Army of the Republic left, and
perhaps none physically fit to endure
without risk the excitement and physical
strain of a Memorial Day demonstration.

Would it not be well, under the con-
ditions, if a sufficient number of citizens
of the civil war, or of the Spanish war,
that the old fellow might ride in com-
fort and ease, follow the route of march?
It seems to me that this is a case in
which the simple mention of conditions
will be fully appreciated and quickly
acted upon. WASHINGTON HEIGHTS.

New York, May 26.

CAMPAIGN EXPENSES.

An Appeal to 40,000,000 Voters Is a
Costly Undertaking.

TO THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD:
Isn't most of this hullabaloo about cam-
paign expenses nonsensical?
Now that women vote there are, con-
servatively speaking, 40,000,000 voters in
the United States. The postage on the
first series of campaign literature to
these voters would run into the thou-
sands; the cost of printing, office rent,
clerk hire, follow up letters, telephone
calls and circulars appealing for support
would mean more thousands.

There is very little altruism in Presi-
dential or any other political campaigns.
The candidate or the manager who has
the best organized system for capturing
the prize usually wins out. It is pure
bunk to criticize political managers for
spending money to elect their candi-
dates; that is what they are chosen to
do if they can get the money to spend.

Forty millions of voters can know
little of the merits of most candidates
unless the managers give them the facts
in printed form and through agents and
speakers qualified to convey them. These
methods always cost money.

JOHN K. BRUCE.
BROOKLYN, May 26.

THE RIGHT TO GUESS.

It Is Exercised by Prohibitionists as
Well as by Governor Edwards.

TO THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD:
Governor Edwards of New Jersey has
been criticised for saying at his first
"at home" to newspaper men in his
headquarters at the Hotel Manhattan
that he had good information that a
decision by the Supreme Court favorable
to the liquor interests would be handed
down. The date of the expected decision
was May 17, but as that day has come
and gone without action by the court in
the case Governor Edwards evidently
guessed wrong.

Undoubtedly the Governor in touch-
ing upon that question in his conversa-
tions with the newspaper men gave his opinion
more through the exuberance of the mo-
ment than through any desire to appear as one
knowing the secret friendship of the mem-
bers of the Supreme Court because of his
well known attitude on the prohibition
issue. Many spokesmen of the Anti-
Saloon League, like Wayne B. Wheeler,
Pussyfoot Johnson, William H. Anderson,
the Rev. James K. Shields and
Samuel Wilson, and in addition men like
John F. Kramer, National Prohibition
Commissioner, and State Prohibition
Commissioner, Edgerton of New Jersey
have publicly stated that the Supreme
Court will surely uphold not only the
Eighteenth Amendment but also the
Volstead act. Why should it be wrong
for the Governor to make his forecast
and right for the prohibitionists to make
theirs?

Recently Commissioner Kramer de-
clared before the Morris County V. J.
club at its spring session in Dover, N. J.,
that the people should not worry over
the decision which is expected from the
Supreme Court on the constitutionality
of the Volstead act. I am sure it will be
upheld in every respect and provision,"
he said.

Here is a positive declaration that
should suggest a question as to Mr.
Kramer's authority for his statement.
Paraphrasing the mere opinion of Gov-
ernor Edwards with the positive state-
ment of Commissioner Kramer it must
be that the censor heaped upon the
Executive seems all the harder to
explain. Since the Governor has come
in for criticism for his statement can
there be any good reason for limiting
censure to the Executive?

DAVID GOODER.
NEWARK, N. J., May 26.

GEORGE L. CHRISTIAN.

An Engineer Whose Devotion to
Public Duty Hastened His Death.

TO THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD:
In the obituary notices of my friend
and former associate George L. Christian,
Deputy City Engineer of Yonkers, who
died April 25, I find no mention of the
greatest of his many important engi-
neering works and the one that un-
doubtedly hastened his end because of
the strain and self-sacrifice entailed.

Refer to the Bronx street tunnel
sewer, at the great time and cost of
the last concrete structure of the kind
in the United States, and which was
built and the contract plans prepared
under Mr. Christian's supervision.

This stupendous work, followed by the
building of the Metcalf avenue double
tunnel sewer, also for storm relief, did
wonderful things for the health of Bronx
borough, but took the best years out of
my friend's life.